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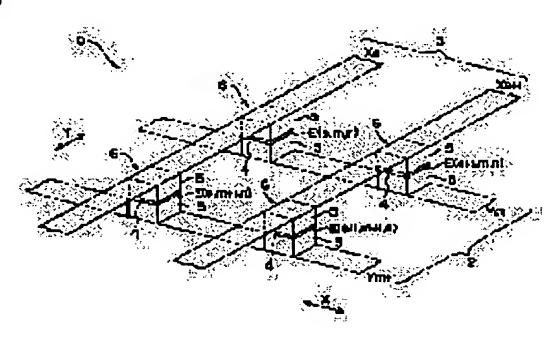
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(54) ORGANIC EL(ELECTROLUMINESCENT) ELEMENT AND LIGHT EMITTING DEVICE USING IT

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide an organic EL (electroluminescent) light emitting element that can restrain scanning line current and can allow a large and high precision display to be realized at low cost and also provide a light emitting device using it.

SOLUTION: This organic EL light emitting element 6 is formed from a transparent electrode 2, an opposite electrode 3 arranged opposite to the transparent electrode 2, n intermediate conductive layers 4 (1≤n≤ 100), and a pair of organic layers 5 which are interlaid between the transparent electrode 2 and the opposite electrode 3 interposing the intermediate conductive layer 4 between them and each of which contains at least an organic light emitting layer. This light emitting device 10 is composed by arranging a plurality of the organic EL light emitting elements 6 in a one—dimensional or two-dimensional form.



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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] The organic electroluminescence light emitting device characterized by including a transparent electrode, the counterelectrode which countered this transparent electrode and has been arranged, a middle conductive layer, and two or more organic luminous layers which intervened on both sides of said middle conductive layer in the middle between said transparent electrodes and counterelectrodes.

[Claim 2] The organic electroluminescence light emitting device to which several n of said middle conductive layer is characterized by being 1<=n<=100 in an organic electroluminescence light emitting device according to claim 1.

[Claim 3] The organic electroluminescence light emitting device characterized by for said transparent electrode, a middle conductive layer, and a counterelectrode lapping on plane view, and the laminating being carried out in an organic electroluminescence light emitting device according to claim 2.

[Claim 4] The organic electroluminescence light emitting device to which said transparent electrode, the first unit light emitting device which intervened the organic luminous layer in the middle conductive layer of an eye most, and the n-th middle conductive layer and the n-th unit light emitting device which intervened the organic luminous layer with the counterelectrode are characterized by being juxtaposed on a flat surface in an organic electroluminescence light emitting device according to claim 2.

[Claim 5] The organic electroluminescence light emitting device to which said transparent electrode, the first unit light emitting device which intervened the organic luminous layer in the middle conductive layer of an eye most, and the n-th middle conductive layer and the n-th unit light emitting device which intervened the organic luminous layer with the counterelectrode are characterized by holding a rectifying action at least in an organic electroluminescence light emitting device according to claim 2.

[Claim 6] Luminescence equipment characterized for the organic light emitting device containing a transparent electrode, the counterelectrode which countered this transparent electrode and has been arranged, a middle conductive layer, and two or more organic luminous layers which intervened on both sides of said middle conductive layer in the middle between said transparent electrodes and

counterelectrodes by the single dimension or carrying out a two-dimensional array as a pixel.

[Claim 7] Luminescence equipment with which several n of said middle conductive layer is characterized by being 1<=n<=100 in luminescence equipment according to claim 6.

[Claim 8] Luminescence equipment characterized by for said transparent electrode, a middle conductive layer, and a counterelectrode lapping on plane view, and the laminating being carried out in luminescence equipment according to claim 7.

[Claim 9] Luminescence equipment with which said transparent electrode, the first unit light emitting device which intervened the organic luminous layer in the middle conductive layer of an eye most, and the n-th middle conductive layer and the n-th unit light emitting device which intervened the organic luminous layer with the counterelectrode are characterized by being juxtaposed on a flat surface in luminescence equipment according to claim 7.

[Claim 10] Luminescence equipment with which said transparent electrode, the first unit light emitting device which intervened the organic luminous layer in the middle conductive layer of an eye most, and the n-th middle conductive layer and the n-th unit light emitting device which intervened the organic luminous layer with the counterelectrode are characterized by holding a rectifying action at least in luminescence equipment according to claim 7.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention] This invention relates to the luminescence equipment which used an organic electroluminescence (electroluminescence) light emitting device and it. In detail, it is related with large-sized, the organic electroluminescence light emitting device for realizing a highly minute display, and luminescence equipment.

[0002]

[Background ****] The organic electroluminescence light emitting device using the organic substance as a luminescence device attracts attention, and, recently, it is used for a display etc. <u>Drawing 6</u> (A) and (B) show the conventional XY matrix type luminescence equipment which used the organic electroluminescence light emitting device. X electrode Rhine Xe-2, Xe-1, Xe, and Xe+1 — in which this XY matrix type luminescence equipment was formed in the shape of a stripe, Y electrode Rhine Ym-1

of shape of stripe by which rectangular arrangement was carried out to these X electrode Rhine Xe-2, Xe-1, Xe, and Xe+1 --, Ym, and Ym+1 --, It consists of organic layers Z of these X electrode Rhine Xe-2, Xe-1, Xe, and Xe+1 -- and Y electrode Rhine Ym-1, Ym, and Ym+1 -- which intervene in between and contain an organic luminous layer at least.

[0003] When the direction of X is made into a scan line in order to make the pixel which is in the coordinate location of arbitration among XY coordinates emit light in this structure for example, it is X electrode Rhine Xe-2, Xe-1, Xe, and Xe+1 first. — One is chosen, the electrical potential difference of 0V is impressed, and a negative electrical potential difference is impressed to other X electrode Rhine Xe-2, Xe-1, Xe, and Xe+1 —. Corresponding to a pixel [a pixel / selected X electrode Rhine Xe-2, Xe-1, Xe, and Xe+1 —] to make it emit light on the other hand, a negative electrical potential difference or 0V are impressed to Y electrode Rhine Ym-1 corresponding to the pixel of Y electrode Rhine Ym-1 which is the direction signal line of Y, Ym, and Y+1 — which a forward electrical potential difference is impressed [pixel] and does not make one emit light, Ym, and Y+1 —. Thereby, the pixel of the coordinate which it is going to acquire can be made to emit light. In addition, X electrode Rhine may be similarly driven except this, although a negative electrode and Y electrode Rhine were considered as a positive electrode.

[0004]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] By the way, although various ingredients were developed about an organic luminescent material used for an organic electroluminescence light emitting device, the effectiveness was eta=10 cd/A - 17 cd/A at the maximum. For this reason, if the large area and the number of pixels of 10 inches or more tend to realize the above (320x240) highly minute display, the following point will have posed a problem.

[0005] ** On a highly minute display, the scanning line serves as N book (N> 100). For this reason, N times of the brightness Lo (nit) for which it asks momentarily, i.e., LN, (nit) are required. At this time, it is required current density. I=LN/eta (A/m2) = $(LN/eta) \times 10-4$ (A/cm2)

 $= LN/eta \times 10-1 (mA/cm2)$

It comes out. Therefore, when referred to as brightness Lo=200 (nit) to calculate, the current density of the next table 1 is required. (at the time of eta=10 cd/A) [0006]

[Table 1]

N	I [mA/cm ²]	走査線電流(走査線面積 0.6 cm ² のとき)[mA]
100	200	÷ 120
200	400	⇒ 240
300	600	÷ 360
400	800	÷ 480
500	1000	≒ 600

[0007] ** Since a high current consistency is needed as mentioned above, by resistance of the (a) scan line and a signal line, a voltage drop is large and power consumption increases. (b) The drive circuit which can pour in a high current is needed, therefore enlargement of a drive circuit cannot realize a thin display.

** In order for a scan line and a signal line to carry out thinning and to form high resistance as it moreover becomes highly minute, CR time constant becomes large and it becomes trouble in case the response of a component obtains delay and a dynamic image.

** Since 300 or more nits of brightness are needed to the needs to realize television, further, these problems become still more nearly unescapable.

[0008] In addition, EP No. 0717445 is known as what can solve an above-mentioned problem. By this EP No. 0717445, the organic electroluminescence luminescence equipment which carried out the TFT drive using poly-Si TFT is indicated. If it is going to realize a display with magnitude the angle of 200 micrometers of a pixel, and 1000x1000 pixels, by the simple matrix method, a scanning-line current will serve as 2 A/cm2, and it will indicate that it cannot drive substantially by the voltage drop by scanning-line resistance and signal-line resistance further. In this patent, it is going to solve this problem using TFT. However, the process of poly-Si TFT is long, and is high. [of a manufacturing cost] Therefore, since a display also becomes expensive, there are few merits.

[0009] The purpose of this invention controls a scanning-line current, and is to offer [large-sized and] the organic electroluminescence light emitting device and luminescence equipment which can realize a highly minute display cheaply.

[0010]

[Means for Solving the Problem] The organic electroluminescence light emitting device of this invention is characterized by including a transparent electrode, the counterelectrode which countered this transparent electrode and has been arranged, a middle conductive layer, and two or more organic luminous layers which intervened on both sides of said middle conductive layer in the middle between said transparent electrodes and counterelectrodes. The luminescence equipment of this invention is

characterized for the above-mentioned organic electroluminescence light emitting device by the single dimension or carrying out a two-dimensional array as a pixel. Here, the middle conductive layer of each pixel is not only separated from the middle conductive layer of the adjoining pixel, but is separated from the power source. Moreover, although several n of the middle conductive layer in each pixel is arbitrary, it is 100 or less, 1<=n<=100 [i.e.,], actually.

[0011] Therefore, since the organic electroluminescence light emitting device in this invention has the composition that series connection of two or more organic luminous layers was carried out on both sides of the middle conductive layer in the middle, if it sets to Vo driver voltage of the pixel which constitutes conventional XY matrix type luminescence equipment, for example and sets electrostatic capacity of io and a pixel to Co for a drive current, in the driver voltage of the pixel (n organic luminous layers and the middle conductive layer of n-1 are held) of this invention, nVo and a drive current will serve as io/n and electrostatic capacity will serve as Co/n. However, the brightness of a pixel makes the same as the pixel component of the conventional XY matrix the former, the same, and a unit element child (unit element child who inserted the organic luminous layer with the middle conductive layer and the electrode).

[0012] If it puts in another way and is going to increase the brightness of a pixel n times, it is necessary to increase a drive current n times with conventional XY matrix type luminescence equipment but, and although driver voltage increases n times in this invention, a drive current is the same and good. That is, by the invention in thisapplication, if brightness is made the same, although an electrical potential difference increases n times over the past, since the current is good at the conventional 1/n, the scan which had become a problem conventionally, and the voltage drop by resistance of a signal line will be set to 1/n. Therefore, the following effectiveness is expectable. [0013] With conventional luminescence equipment, the scanning-line current was large, therefore the voltage drop was large, in bringing about increase of power consumption and a high definition, and the luminescence equipment of a large area, the scanning-line current became near the 1A, and it had become a problem that it cannot drive by the driver IC substantially. However, since a scanning-line current is set to the conventional 1/n and power consumption also decreases in this invention, a large area and more than a high definition (800x600 pixels, pixel pitch 110micrometerx330micrometer), for example, 12 inch SVGA, are more possible.

[0014] Moreover, although it was required for a pixel to answer a high speed in order to perform a pixel display, conventionally, time constant tauo=Ro-C1 which becomes settled by the product with the electrostatic capacity C1 which is related to the wiring

resistance Ro at the time of a drive was large, and had become severalmicroS – 10micro of numbers S. For this reason, trouble had occurred [the standup of a drive wave, and falling] in delay and a movie display. In this invention, Co is set to 1/n and the electrostatic capacity C1 which is further related at the time of a drive is also set to 1/n. Therefore, a time constant can become tauo=Ro- (C1/n), can answer a high speed, and can also perform animation display for high quality. In addition, although C1 is not the same as that of Co and it is based also on a drive method, it becomes C1=Cox (number of vertical pixels) extent.

[0015] About the array configuration of the transparent electrode which constitutes an organic electroluminescence light emitting device above, a middle conductive layer, and a counterelectrode The configuration by which the laminating is carried out by lapping to plane view top each pixel may be used. Or the configuration currently juxtaposed on the flat surface is sufficient as a transparent electrode, the first unit light emitting device which intervened the organic luminous layer in the middle conductive layer of an eye most, and the n-th middle conductive layer and the n-th unit light emitting device which intervened the organic luminous layer with the counterelectrode. Especially, in the former configuration, the densification of the pixel can be carried out compared with the latter configuration.

[0016] Moreover, it is desirable for a transparent electrode, the first unit light emitting device which intervened the organic luminous layer in the middle conductive layer of an eye most, and the n-th middle conductive layer and the n-th unit light emitting device which intervened the organic luminous layer with the counterelectrode to hold a rectifying action at least. Here, it becomes possible preferably about a rectifying action to prevent 106 or more [then] and a cross talk more preferably 103 or more. In this invention, since the unit light emitting device which holds a middle conductive layer was connected multistage, it is easy to acquire a rectifying action. Since the conventional component consisted of a unit light emitting device of a piece, it had the problem of having been easy to produce a component with a poor rectifying action, and being easy to produce a cross talk.

[0017] Incidentally, WO 95/No. 06400 is known as a technique near the configuration of this invention. It thinks in order to acquire the effectiveness for carrying out the laminating of the first organic light emitting device and the second organic light emitting device, and carrying out color mixture of the first luminescent color and second luminescent color, or high-color-izing, but since this WO 95/No. 06400 is the configuration of having impressed the electrical potential difference to each organic light emitting device according to the individual, respectively, it differs from the

configuration which holds the middle conductive layer of this invention. And no effectiveness based on the configuration of the organic luminous layer which sandwiched the middle conductive layer of this invention in the middle is also shown. [0018]

[0018][Embodiment of the Invention] [1st operation gestalt] drawing 1 shows the outline configuration of the 1st operation gestalt. As shown in this drawing, the luminescence equipment 10 of the 1st operation gestalt The transparent electrode 2 used as the anode plate formed on the glass substrate of an illustration abbreviation, and the counterelectrode 3 used as the cathode which countered this transparent electrode 2 and has been arranged, It has as a pixel the organic electroluminescence light emitting device 6 containing the middle conductive layer 4 of n sheets (1<=n<=100), and two or more organic layers 5 which intervene on both sides of said middle conductive layer 4 in the middle between said transparent electrodes 2 and counterelectrodes 3, and contain an organic luminous layer at least. This pixel (organic electroluminescence light emitting device 6) is arranged along the two-dimensional array, i.e., X, and the direction of Y. That is, XY matrix type luminescence equipment is constituted. [0019] A transparent electrode 2 has translucency and, specifically, consists of two or more Y electrode Rhine Ym and Ym+1 -- which were installed every fixed spacing in parallel mutually. A counterelectrode 3 intersects perpendicularly to Y electrode Rhine Ym and Ym+1 --, and consists of two or more X electrode Rhine Xe installed. every fixed spacing in parallel mutually and Xe+1 --. With Y electrode Rhine Ym and

more Y electrode Rhine Ym and Ym+1 — which were installed every fixed spacing in parallel mutually. A counterelectrode 3 intersects perpendicularly to Y electrode Rhine Ym and Ym+1 —, and consists of two or more X electrode Rhine Xe installed every fixed spacing in parallel mutually and Xe+1 —. With Y electrode Rhine Ym and Ym+1 —, the middle conductive layer 4 is the crossing part with X electrode Rhine Xe and Xe+1 —, and is arranged one sheet among these, respectively while it is equipped with translucency. This is made into E (e, m, n), E (e, m+1, n), E (e+1, m, n), and E(e+1, m+1, n) —. In addition, n expresses the number of the middle conductive layers which intervened in each pixel 6, and is "1" with this operation gestalt. Moreover, the middle conductive layers E (e, m, n), E (e, m+1, n), and E (e+1, m, n) in each pixel 6 and E(e+1, m+1, n) — While dissociating from the middle conductive layers E (e, m, n), E (e, m+1, n), and E (e+1, m, n) of the adjoining pixel 6, and E(e+1, m+1, n) —, it dissociates also from the power source connected to electrodes 2 and 3. From the first, it does not have wiring which carries out the address of the middle conductive layers E (e, m, n), E (e, m+1, n), and E (e+1, m, n) and E (e+1, m, n) and E (e+1, m+1, n) — independently. The middle conductive layer 4 can be defined as the layer which can pour an electron hole into one main front—face side, and can pour an electron into the main front—face side of another side, and maintains potentials, such as abbreviation, in a layer. If applied to this definition, while being able to use the semi—conductor of various transparency,

and a metal, the combination of a semi-conductor/metal can also be used. An organic layer 5 is set with Y electrode Rhine Ym and Ym+1 — in the crossing part (inside of each pixel) with X electrode Rhine Xe and Xe+1 —. With Y electrode Rhine Ym and Ym+1 —, the middle conductive layers E (e, m, n) and E (e, m+1, n), E (e+1, m, n), E (e+1, m+1, n) — Between, middle conductive layers E (e, m, n), E (e, m+1, n), E (e+1, m, n), and E (e+1, m+1, n) — X electrode Rhine Xe, Xe+1 — It intervenes in between, respectively.

[0020] Here, with this operation gestalt, if the part to which the organic layer 5 which contains an organic luminous layer at least comes to intervene between each electrodes 2 and 3 and the middle conductive layer 4 is defined as a unit element child, the laminating is carried out so that a unit element child may lap on plane view. That is, the laminating is carried out so that a transparent electrode 2, the middle conductive layer 4, and a counterelectrode 3 may lap to plane view top each pixel. Furthermore, these unit element children have the rectifying action. As a rectification ratio, it is 106 or more more preferably 103 or more. Moreover, what shows the same luminescent color as a unit element child is desirable. Furthermore, about the ingredient of each class (for example, a hole injection layer, an electron hole transportation layer, a luminous layer, an electronic injection layer) which constitutes an organic layer 5, being constituted by the same ingredient is desirable. This is effective in becoming easy to carry out manufacture, and the defect which is a pixel decreasing, since the film production conditions are still more fixed. Moreover, although it is effective in poor leak being canceled by the unit element child by whom a laminating is done even if poor leak exists in the unit element child directly located on a transparent electrode 2, an ingredient is the same also in respect of the effectiveness, and the one where film production conditions are more fixed tends to acquire effectiveness.

[0021] Drawing 2 takes shape more and shows the cross section of the luminescence equipment 10 of above-mentioned drawing 1. Drawing 3 is the enlarged drawing to which the part was expanded. As shown in these drawings, the interlayer insulation film 7 is formed on the transparent electrode 2 and the substrate (illustration abbreviation). An interlayer insulation film 7 is film of insulation or semiconductance, and has become a part of nonluminescent component part. The **** part of an interlayer insulation film 7 is sudden, and this has separated the middle conductive layer 4 mutually. As an interlayer insulation film 7, they are SiOx ($1 \le x \le 2$), SiNx ($1/2 \le x \le 4/3$), SiON, SiAION, SiOF, etc. at the insulating film which can perform **** processing, the inorganic oxide film or an inorganic nitride, and a concrete target. Another desirable insulating film is a poly membrane. Specifically, they are polyimide,

polyacrylate, the poly quinoline, a polysiloxane, polysilane, etc. Besides the insulating film, even if it is the semi-conductor film, there should just be insulation which can perform pixel separation. Desirable specific resistance is 1016 ohm-cm - 105 ohm-cm. For example, alpha-Si, alpha-SiC, alpha-SiN, etc. are sufficient.

[0022] By the way, about the manufacture approach of the luminescence equipment 10 mentioned above, the following are mentioned as an example in which various idea **** are desirable.

- (1) Film production of the organic layer containing the film production of an interlayer insulation film and the pattern processing (3) organic luminous layer which give film production and the pattern processing (2) level difference of a transparent electrode ((4) is inserted and it is n+ 1-time repeat)
- (4) Production of the film production (5) counterelectrode of a middle conductive layer (it produces after film production of (3))
- (6) When repeating a closure process, therefore (3) twice, it becomes (1) ->(2) ->(3) ->(4) ->(3) ->(5) ->(6).

[0023] Although the above is the production process of this manufacture approach, compared with the manufacture approach of the conventional component, the processes of (2) and (4) differ. Moreover, the places which repeat the process of (3) differ. Moreover, this manufacture approach has the indispensable place which makes the level difference of an interlayer insulation film sudden, and the include angle is 70 degrees or more preferably. The middle conductive layer preferably produced by 20nm – 0.5nm thickness by this is disconnected with a level difference, and the middle conductive layer of the adjoining pixel is separated mutually. Moreover, it secures that the middle conductive layer is separated from the counterelectrode or the transparent electrode also about a field light emitting device (1 pixel).

[0024] as a middle conductive layer — the inside of a layer — abbreviation — if it is what can pour in an electron hole from one main front face, and can pour in an electron from the main front face of another side while keeping it equipotential — the various ** **** — things are made. When desirable things are enumerated, they are an electronic conductivity organic layer ** P—type semiconductor / mixolimnion / transparent electrode ** electron hole conductivity organic layer / N—type semiconductor ** P type conductive polymer / N—type semiconductor. [of a ** super—thin film metal / transparent electrode ** electronic transportability compound, the mixolimnion / transparent electrode ** carbon compound of an electron injectional compound, and alkali metal] Furthermore, if one field is hole injectional and the field of another side is electron injection nature, although it will be used as a

middle conductive layer of **s, such as a mixolimnion of a thin film metal, a transparent electrode, an electronic transportability compound, and an electron injectional compound, an electron hole conductivity organic layer, P, or an N-type semiconductor, - **, if it combines from inside, it can use more preferably.

[0025] Especially a desirable thing is the In–Zn–O oxide film which can produce a film at low temperature in the above–mentioned transparent electrode. Otherwise, the amorphous ITO film is desirable. Desirable super–thin film metals are the Mg:Ag alloy which is electron injection nature, an aluminum:Li alloy, a Mg:Li alloy, etc. A desirable electronic transportability compound is the metal complex of OKIREN, or a ** N prime ring compound. A desirable electron injectional compound is a compound containing alkali metal, alkaline earth metal, a rare earth metal, and these. For example, BaO, SrO, Li2O, LiCl, LiF, MgF2, MgO, CaF2, etc. are desirable electron injectional compounds. Desirable P–type semiconductors are P type alpha–Si, P type Si, P type CdTe, P type CuO, etc. Desirable N–type semiconductors are N type alpha–Si, N type Si, N type CdS, N type ZnS, etc. As a conductive polymer of P type or N type, desirable things are the poly arylene vinylene, the poly CHIENIREN vinylene, etc.

[0026] [2nd operation gestalt] drawing 4 shows the outline configuration of the 2nd operation gestalt. As shown in this drawing, the luminescence equipment 20 of the 2nd operation gestalt is the configuration that three unit element children (1), (2), and (3) are juxtaposed on plane view. Electrode Y' extended and connected intervenes the organic layer 5 which has an organic luminous layer between the middle conductive layers E of the upper part (e, m1), and constitutes the unit element child (1) from Y electrode Rhine Ym. The middle conductive layer E (e, m1) is connected with the middle conductive layer E (e, m1) in a unit element child's (2)'s juxtaposed lower part. The middle conductive layer E (e, m1) intervenes the organic layer 5 which has an organic luminous layer between the middle conductive layers E in the upper part (e, m2), and constitutes the unit element child (2). The middle conductive layer E (e, m2) is connected with the middle conductive layer E (e, m2) in a unit element child's (3)'s lower part juxtaposed. The middle conductive layer E (e, m2) intervenes the organic layer 5 which has an organic luminous layer between X electrode Rhine Xe of the upper part, and constitutes the unit element child (3). In addition, about these unit element children (1), (2), and (3), it has a rectifying action.

[0027] Also in the configuration of this 2nd operation gestalt, therefore, between electrode Y' and X electrode Rhine Xe which were extended from X electrode Rhine Ym Since the middle conductive layers E (e, m1) and E (e, m2) of two sheets intervene and the organic layer 5 which has an organic luminous layer among these intervenes,

that is, between electrode Y' and X electrode Rhine Xe Since three organic layers 5 are connected to the serial on both sides of the middle conductive layers E (e, m1) and E (e, m2) in the middle, effectiveness equivalent to the 1st operation gestalt is expectable.

[0028]

[Example] What has produced 120nm of ITO (indium tin oxide) electrodes on the glass substrate of [example 1] 25mmx75mmx1.1mm size was used as the transparence support substrate. This ITO was processed in the shape of [of 110 micrometer pitch and 90 micrometer width of face] a stripe. The longitudinal direction of a stripe is 20mm and a number is 600. Next, V259 which is transparence acrylate resin (the Nippon Steel chemistry company make) as an interlayer insulation film was produced by 1.2-micrometer thickness on the spin coat. Then, this substrate was heated at the temperature of 200 degrees C, and the interlayer insulation film which consists of V259 was heat-hardened.

[0029] Next, the photoresist was produced on these V 259 layers, and the photo mask was through-exposed and was developed so that an opening pattern like <u>drawing 5</u> (A) might remain. Furthermore, after drying this substrate at the temperature of 80 degrees C for 1 hour, reactive ion etching using oxygen gas was performed by having used the photoresist of the configuration of <u>drawing 5</u> (A) as the mask, and the interlayer insulation film of opening was removed. What was obtained is a substrate with the cross section of <u>drawing 5</u> (B). In addition, about a top-face configuration, it is referring to drawing 5 (C).

[0030] Next, ultrasonic cleaning was performed for this substrate in isopropyl alcohol for 5 minutes, and washing which used ultraviolet rays and ozone together further was performed for 30 minutes. This transparence support substrate was fixed to the evaporation and **MTDATA** (4, 4', vacuum system, 4"-tris {N-(3-methylphenyl)-N-phenylamino} triphenylamine), NPD (N, N'-G and (1-naphthyl)-N, N'-diphenyl -4, 4'-benzidine) and Alq (aluminum complex of 8-hydroxyquinoline) were put into three resistance heating boats, respectively. Moreover, the source of vacuum evaporationo of Metal Li was prepared. The vacuum evaporation system was exhausted to 1x10-4.

[0031] Next, the boat containing MTDATA was heated and the hole injection layer of 120nm of thickness was produced. Next, the boat containing NPD was heated and the electron hole transportation layer of 10nm of thickness was produced. Next, the boat containing Alq was heated, the luminous layer of 40nm of thickness was produced, and the coincidence vacuum evaporationo of the Alq was further carried out by the mole

ratio of metals Li and 1:1. Although this Alq:Li layer works as an electronic injection layer, you may think as a part of middle conductive layer, and electron injection to a luminous layer is performed.

[0032] The substrate (substrate shown in drawing 5 (D)) which performed the above film production was moved to the vacuum tub for sputtering connected with this vacuum tub from the tub for vacuum deposition. And 11nm of In-Zn-O was produced as a part of middle conductive layer. The mixed gas of the volume ratio 1000:1 of 2 and Ar:O2 was produced as an ambient atmosphere the sputtering output of 1.2W/cm using the In–Zn–O sputtering target of the atomic ratio 0.83 expressed with In/(In/Zn). [0033] Next, the substrate which finished the above film production was returned to the tub for vacuum deposition, the boat containing MTDATA was heated, and the hole injection layer of 120nm of thickness was produced. Next, the boat containing NPD was heated and the electron hole transportation layer of 10nm of thickness was produced. Next, the boat containing Alq was heated, the luminous layer of 40nm of thickness was produced, and the coincidence vacuum evaporationo of the Alq was further carried out by the mole ratio of metals Li and 1:1. Finally, the film was produced by 1.8-micrometer thickness, having covered the vacuum evaporationo mask for cathode (20 opening stripe patterns being prepared with 400-micrometer pitch and the aperture width of 300 micrometers so that it may become perpendicular to an ITO stripe.), and In was used as cathode. The cross section of the produced luminescence elements (luminescence equipment) is shown by drawing 5 (E).

[0034] Although production was finished above, when 15V were impressed to all the ITO stripes that are anode plates at 0 potential about all In stripes that are the cathode of these luminescence elements and nothing combined with the middle conductive layer, current density 3 mA/cm2 and brightness 210nit were obtained. Luminous efficiency was 7 cd/A.

[0035] The example 1 of the [example 1 of comparison] comparison is the case where there is no middle conductive layer. The elements were produced like the example 1. However, vacuum evaporationo of an In–Zn–O middle conductive layer and the 2nd hole injection layer, an electron hole transportation layer, and a luminous layer was omitted, and the elements of the conventional configuration were produced. When 7.35V were impressed to all the ITO stripes that are anode plates at 0 potential about all In stripes that are the cathode of the luminescence elements, 2 and brightness 100nit were obtained the current density of 3mA/cm. Luminous efficiency was 3.37 cd/A. From the above thing, luminous efficiency becomes twice [about] and the component of an example 1 is understood that a raise in brightness is possible,

although an electrical potential difference becomes twice [about] to the example 1 of a comparison.

[0036] The [example 2] example 2 is the case where the number of middle conductive layers is two. It vapor-deposited to the 2nd Li:Alq layer like the example 1. The substrate which performed the above film production was again moved to the vacuum tub for sputtering connected with this vacuum tub from the tub for vacuum deposition. And 10nm of In-Zn-O was produced as a part of middle conductive layer. The mixed gas of the volume ratio 1000:1 of sputtering output 1.2 W/cm2 and Ar:O2 was produced as an ambient atmosphere using the In-Zn-O sputtering target of the electronic ratio 0.83 expressed with In/(In+Zn).

[0037] Next, the substrate which finished the above film production was returned to the tub for vacuum deposition, the boat containing MTDATA was heated, and the hole injection layer of 120nm of thickness was produced. Next, the boat containing NPD was heated and the electron hole transportation layer of 10nm of thickness was produced. Next, the boat containing Alq was heated, the luminous layer of 40nm of thickness was produced, and the coincidence vacuum evaporationo of the Alq was further carried out by the mole ratio of metals Li and 1:1. Finally, the film was produced by 1.8-micrometer thickness, having covered the vacuum evaporationo mask for cathode (20 opening stripe patterns being prepared with 400-micrometer pitch and the aperture width of 300 micrometers so that it may become perpendicular to an ITO stripe.), and In was used as cathode.

[0038] Although production was finished above, when 23V were impressed to all the ITO stripes that are anode plates at 0 potential about all In stripes that are the cathode of these luminescence elements and nothing combined with the middle conductive layer of two sheets, current density 3 mA/cm2 and brightness 303nit were obtained. Luminous efficiency was 10.1 cd/A. As mentioned above, in this example 2, although it was about 3 times the electrical potential difference of this compared with the component of the example 1 of a comparison, brightness has produced the about 3 times as many high brightness-ized component as this also for 3 times and luminous efficiency. In addition, in the above example, although the example of a trial of complete luminescence was shown, the thing [according to / as the scanning line / cathode / according to a signal line for an anode plate / things / a simple matrix / for which a line sequential drive can be carried out] and and is also checked. When a scanning-line current was made the same as compared with conventional luminescence equipment, it is 2.02 or 2.95 times the brightness of this obtained with the luminescence equipment of an example 1 and an example 2, respectively, and it

was able to be formed into high brightness.

[0039] The middle conductive layer of the [example 3] example 3 is the example of the super—thin film / In–Zn–O lead—wire nature oxide film of Mg:Ag. The component was produced like the example 1. However, the places which used the super—thin film / In–Zn–O lead—wire nature oxide film of Mg:Ag differed instead of the middle electric conduction membrane layer of the configuration of the Alq:Li/In–Zn–O lead—wire nature oxide film. Mg:Ag is 8nm of thickness and was formed by coincidence vacuum evaporationo. The permeability of this middle conductive layer was about 60%. When 15V were impressed to all the ITO stripes that are anode plates about all the cathode stripes of these luminescence elements at 0 potential and nothing combined with the middle conductive layer, current density 3 mA/cm2 and brightness 156nit were obtained. Luminous efficiency was 5.2 cd/A.

[0040] As mentioned above, high brightness was formed, although it did not go to twice [about] compared with the component of the example 1 of a comparison when permeability used a metal super—thin film. Since transparency was high, the electronic injection layer and the mixolimnion of an electron injectional compound were excellent in the direction of the component of an example 1. Thus, it became clear that it is more desirable to use the middle conductive layer which can pour in the transparence and electron hole where permeability is larger than 60%, and an electron.

[0041] The [example 4] example 4 is an example of the field luminescence light source which holds a middle conductive layer. What has produced 120nm of ITO (indium tin oxide) electrodes on the glass substrate of 25mmx75mmx1.1mm size was used as the transparence support substrate. Pattern processing of this ITO was carried out at the 25mmx30mm configuration. Next, V259 which is a product made of transparence acrylate resin (the Nippon Steel chemistry company make) as an interlayer insulation film was produced by 1.2-micrometer thickness on the spin coat. Then, this substrate was heated at the temperature of 200 degrees C, and the interlayer insulation film which consists of V259 was heat-hardened.

[0042] Next, the photoresist was produced on these V 259 layers, and the photo mask was through—exposed and was developed so that a 20mmx25mm opening pattern might remain. Furthermore, after drying this substrate at the temperature of 80 degrees C for 1 hour, reactive ion etching using oxygen gas was performed by having used the photoresist as the mask, and the interlayer insulation film of opening was removed. Next, ultrasonic cleaning was performed for this substrate in isopropyl alcohol for 5 minutes, and washing which used ultraviolet rays and ozone together was performed further for 30 minutes.

[0043] Pori (2-methoxy-5-(2-ethylhexyloxy)-1, 4-phenylenevinylene) which is a conjugated-system polymer, and (MEH-PPV) were compounded according to reference (Synthetic Metal the 66th volume, 75 pages, 1994) on this transparence support substrate. 120nm of luminous layers was produced from 1.5% of the weight of the xylene solution of MEH-PPV. This was dried at 80 degrees C in the vacuum, and it carried out vacuum deposition 20nm on this layer further, having used the layer of 1:1 of Alq (aluminum complex of 8-hydroxyquinoline), and Metal Li as the electronic injection layer. Although this Alq:Li layer works as an electronic injection layer, you may think as a part of middle conductive layer, and electron injection to a luminous layer is performed.

[0044] The substrate which performed the above film production was moved to the vacuum tub for sputtering connected with this vacuum tub from the tub for vacuum deposition. And 11nm of In–Zn–O was produced as a part of middle conductive layer. Using the In–Zn–O sputtering target of the atomic ratio 0.83 expressed with In/(In+Zn), the ambient atmosphere was carried out and the mixed gas of the volume ratio 1000:1 of sputtering output 1.2 W/cm2 and Ar:O2 was produced.

[0045] Next, 120nm of luminous layers was further produced on the substrate which finished the above film production from 1.5% of the weight of the xylene solution of MEH-PPV. This was dried at 80 degrees C among the vacuum, and it carried out vacuum deposition 20nm on this layer further, having used the layer of 1:1 of Alq (aluminum complex of 8-hydroxyquinoline), and Metal Li as the electronic injection layer. The coincidence vacuum evaporationo of the Alq was carried out by the mole ratio of metals Li and 1:1. Finally, the film was produced by 1.7-micrometer thickness, having covered the vacuum evaporationo mask for cathode, and In was used as cathode. Although production was finished above, when 11V were impressed to ITO which is an anode plate about the cathode of this field light emitting device at 0 potential and nothing combined with the middle conductive layer, current density 30 mA/cm2 and brightness 1400nit were obtained. Luminous efficiency was 4.7 cd/A. [0046] The example 2 of the [example 2 of comparison] comparison is the case of the conventional field-like light emitting device. The elements were produced like the example 4. However, the In-Zn-O middle conductive layer and the 2nd luminous layer, and the electronic injection layer were omitted, and the component of the conventional configuration was produced. When 5.2V were impressed to ITO which is an anode plate about the cathode of the luminescence elements at 0 potential, current density 30 mA/cm2 and brightness 750nit were obtained. Luminous efficiency

was 2.5 cd/A. From the above thing, luminous efficiency serves as a twice [about] as

many abbreviation as this, and the component of an example 4 is understood that a raise in brightness is possible by the low battery, although an electrical potential difference becomes twice [about] compared with the example 2 of a comparison. [0047] The constant current drive performed life test by [comparison of life [of the conventional light emitting device], and life of this invention component] first stage 200nit. The life of the component of the example 2 of a comparison was 500 hours. In the component of this invention of an example 4, when life test was performed by the same brightness, the life was extended in 1300 hours. When a constant current drive

performed life test by initial brightness 400nit and it was twice the brightness of the component of an example 4 of this to the example 2 of a comparison, the life was equivalent in 470 hours. Therefore, this invention can acquire an equivalent life by high brightness, and it turns out by equivalent brightness that it becomes it is remarkable and long lasting.

[0048] In addition, this invention is not limited to said operation gestalt, and includes other configurations which can attain the purpose of this invention. For example, although the two-dimensional array of the pixel (organic electroluminescence light emitting device 6) was carried out with the 1st and 2nd operation gestalt, an array, i.e., an one-dimensional array, may be used along X or the direction of Y at a single tier. Moreover, although one middle conductive layer 4 was intervened with the 1st operation gestalt and two middle conductive layers 4 were made to intervene with the 2nd operation gestalt in each pixel, if several n of the middle conductive layer 4 is within the limits of one or more and 100 or less, it is arbitrary. That is, it is arbitrary if it is within the limits of $1 \le n \le 100$.

[0049] Moreover, although not asked especially about the lamination of an organic layer 5, as long as it is a configuration containing an organic luminous layer at least, what kind of lamination is sufficient [the structure which formed the electronic injection layer between cathode and a luminous layer, formed the hole injection layer between the anode plate and the luminous layer, or formed these electronic injection layers and hole injection layers in both is sufficient, and]. [0050]

[Effect of the Invention] Responsibility can be raised while being able to control a scanning-line current compared with the conventional component according to the organic electroluminescence light emitting device of this invention, since it is the configuration of having made two or more organic luminous layers intervening on both sides of a middle conductive layer between a transparent electrode and a counterelectrode in the middle. Therefore, according to the luminescence equipment

using this organic electroluminescence light emitting device, large-sized and a highly minute display are cheaply realizable.

DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] It is the perspective view showing the principle of the 1st operation gestalt of the luminescence equipment of this invention.

[Drawing 2] It is the sectional view showing the cross section of an operation gestalt same as the above.

[Drawing 3] It is the partial enlarged drawing of drawing 2.

[Drawing 4] It is the perspective view showing the principle of the 2nd operation gestalt of the luminescence equipment of this invention.

[Drawing 5] It is drawing for explaining the manufacture approach of the 1st operation gestalt of this invention.

[Drawing 6] the top view showing conventional XY matrix type luminescence equipment — and — the — it is an expansion perspective view a part.

[Description of Notations]

- 2 Transparent Electrode
- 3 Counterelectrode
- 4 Middle Conductive Layer
- 5 Organic Layer

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- 6 Organic Light Emitting Device
- 7 Interlayer Insulation Film
- 10 Luminescence Equipment
- 20 Luminescence Equipment

Ym, Ym+1 -- Y electrode Rhine

Xe, Xe+1 -- X electrode Rhine

E (e, m, n) -- E (e+1, m+1, n) -- Middle conductive layer

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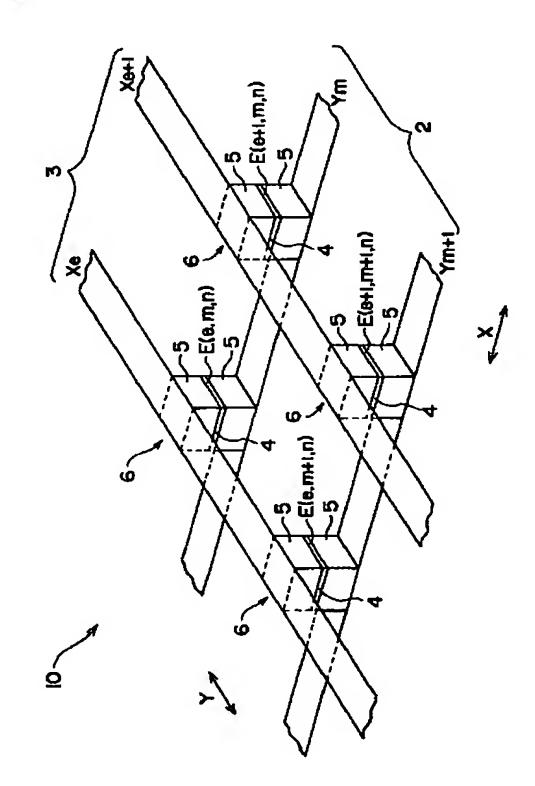
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(54) 【発明の名称】 有機EL発光素子およびそれを用いた発光装置

(57)【要約】

【課題】 走査線電流を抑制し、大型かつ高精細ディスプレイを安価に実現できる有機EL発光素子および発光装置を提供する。

【解決手段】 透明電極2と、この透明電極2に対向して配置された対向電極3と、n枚(1≦n≦100)の中間導電層4と、前記透明電極2と対向電極3との間に中間に中間導電層4を挟んで介在され少なくとも有機発光層を包含する有機層5とから有機EL発光素子6が形成されている。この有機EL発光素子6が一次元または二次元配列されて発光装置10が構成されている。



【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 透明電極と、この透明電極に対向して配置された対向電極と、中間導電層と、前記透明電極と対向電極との間に中間に前記中間導電層を挟んで介在された複数の有機発光層とを含むことを特徴とする有機EL発光素子。

【請求項2】 請求項1に記載の有機EL発光素子において、前記中間導電層の数nが、1≦n≦100であることを特徴とする有機EL発光素子。

【請求項3】 請求項2に記載の有機EL発光素子にお 10いて、前記透明電極、中間導電層および対向電極が、平面視上重なって積層されていることを特徴とする有機EL発光素子。

【請求項4】 請求項2に記載の有機EL発光素子において、前記透明電極と一番目の中間導電層にて有機発光層を介在した第一の単位発光素子と、n番目の中間導電層と対向電極にて有機発光層を介在した第nの単位発光素子とが、平面上並置されていることを特徴とする有機EL発光素子。

【請求項5】 請求項2に記載の有機EL発光素子にお 20 いて、前記透明電極と一番目の中間導電層にて有機発光層を介在した第一の単位発光素子と、n番目の中間導電層と対向電極にて有機発光層を介在した第nの単位発光素子とが、少なくとも整流性を保有することを特徴とする有機EL発光素子。

【請求項6】 透明電極と、この透明電極に対向して配置された対向電極と、中間導電層と、前記透明電極と対向電極との間に中間に前記中間導電層を挟んで介在された複数の有機発光層とを含む有機発光素子を、画素として、一次元または二次元配列したことを特徴とする発光 30 装置。

【請求項7】 請求項6に記載の発光装置において、前記中間導電層の数nが、 $1 \le n \le 100$ であることを特徴とする発光装置。

【請求項8】 請求項7に記載の発光装置において、前記透明電極、中間導電層および対向電極が、平面視上重なって積層されていることを特徴とする発光装置。

【請求項9】 請求項7に記載の発光装置において、前記透明電極と一番目の中間導電層にて有機発光層を介在した第一の単位発光素子と、n番目の中間導電層と対向 40電極にて有機発光層を介在した第nの単位発光素子とが、平面上並置されていることを特徴とする発光装置。

【請求項10】 請求項7に記載の発光装置において、 前記透明電極と一番目の中間導電層にて有機発光層を介 在した第一の単位発光素子と、n番目の中間導電層と対 向電極にて有機発光層を介在した第nの単位発光素子と が、少なくとも整流性を保有することを特徴とする発光 装置。

*【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【発明の属する技術分野】本発明は、有機EL(エレクトロルミネッセンス)発光素子およびそれを用いた発光装置に関する。詳しくは、大型かつ高精細ディスプレイを実現するための有機EL発光素子および発光装置に関する。

[0002]

【背景支術】発光デバイスとして有機物を用いた有機EL発光素子が注目され、最近では、ディスプレイなどに利用されてきている。図6(A)(B)は、有機EL発光素子を用いた従来のXYマトリックス型発光装置は、ストライプ状に形成されたX電極ラインXe-2,Xe-1,Xe,Xe+1…と、このX電極ラインXe-2,Xe-1,Xe,Xe+1…に対して直交配置されたストライプ状のY電極ラインYm-1,Ym,Ym+1…と、これらX電極ラインXe-2,Xe-1、xe,Xe+1…およびY電極ラインYm-1,Ym,Ym+1…の間に介在され少なくとも有機発光層を含む有機層Zとから構成されている。

【0003】この構造において、XY座標のうち、任意の座標位置にある画素を発光させるには、たとえば、X方向を走査ラインとすると、まず、X電極ラインXe-2, Xe-1, Xe, Xe+1…の一本を選択して0Vの電圧を印加し、他のX電極ラインXe-2, Xe-1, Xe, Xe+1…に負電圧を印加する。一方、選択したX電極ラインXe-2, Xe-1, Xe, Xe+1…の発光させたい画素に対応してY方向信号ラインであるY電極ラインYm-1, Ym, Y+1…の一本に正電圧を印加し、発光させない画素に対応するY電極ラインYm-1, Ym, Y+1…に負電圧または0Vを印加する。これにより、得ようとする座標の画素を発光させることができる。なお、X電極ラインを負極、Y電極ラインを正極として考えたが、これ以外でも同様に駆動することができ得る。

[0004]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】ところで、有機EL発光素子に用いられる有機発光材料については、種々の材料が開発されているが、その効率は最大でも $\eta=10c$ d/A \sim 17cd/Aであった。このため、10インチ以上の大面積や、画素数が(320×240)以上の高精細ディスプレイを実現しようとすると、次の点が問題となってきた。

【0005】①高精細ディスプレイでは、走査線がN本 (N>100) となる。このため、瞬間的には求める輝度Lo(nit) のN倍、すなわち、LN(nit) が必要である。このとき、必要な電流密度は、

 $I = L N/\eta (A/m^2) = (L N/\eta) \times 10^{-4} (A/c m^2)$ = $(L N/\eta) \times 10^{-1} (m A/c m^2)$ である。従って、求める輝度Lo=200 (n i t) と *【0006】 した場合、次の表 1 の電流密度が必要である。 ($\eta=1$ 【表 1】

0 c d/Aのとき)

			T'
	N	I [mA/cm ²]	走査線電流(走査線面積 0.6 cm²のとき)[mA]
	100	200	÷ 120
	200	400	÷ 240
	300	600	÷ 360
:	400	800	÷ 480
	500	1000	≒ 600

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【0007】②上記のように大電流密度が必要となるので、(a) 走査ライン、信号ラインの抵抗により電圧降下が大きく、消費電力が増大する。(b) 大電流を注入できるような駆動回路が必要となり、そのため、駆動回路の大型化により薄型ディスプレイが実現できない。

③しかも、高精細になるにつれ、走査ラインおよび信号ラインが細線化し高抵抗化するため、CR時定数が大きくなり、素子の応答が遅れ、動画像を得る場合の支障となる。

②さらに、テレビジョンを実現したいというニーズに対 20 しては輝度が300nit以上必要となるので、これら の問題はさらに不可避となる。

【0008】なお、上述の問題を解決できるものとして、EP0717445号が知られている。このEP0717445号では、ポリシリコンTFTを用いTFT駆動した有機EL発光装置を開示している。画素の大きさ200μm角、画素数1000×1000のディスプレイを実現しようとすると、単純マトリックス方式では走査線電流が2A/cm²となり、さらに走査線抵抗、信号線抵抗による電圧降下によって実質的には駆動できないことを開示している。この特許では、TFTを用いて、この問題を解決しようとしている。しかしながら、ポリシリコンTFTのプロセスは長く、また、製造コストも高い。従って、ディスプレイも高価となるためメリットは少ない。

【0009】本発明の目的は、走査線電流を抑制し、大型かつ高精細ディスプレイを安価に実現できる有機EL発光素子および発光装置を提供することにある。

[0010]

【課題を解決するための手段】本発明の有機EL発光素子は、透明電極と、この透明電極に対向して配置された対向電極と、中間導電層と、前記透明電極と対向電極との間に中間に前記中間導電層を挟んで介在された複数の有機発光層とを含むことを特徴とする。本発明の発光装置は、上記有機EL発光素子を、画素として、一次元または二次元配列したことを特徴とする。ここで、各画素の中間導電層は、隣接する画素の中間導電層から分離されているだけでなく、電源からも分離されている。また、各画素中の中間導電層の数nは、任意であるが、現実的には100以下、つまり、1≦n≦100である。

【0011】従って、本発明における有機EL発光素子は、中間に中間導電層を挟んで複数の有機発光層が直列接続された構成となっているから、たとえば、従来のXYマトリックス型発光装置を構成する画素の駆動電圧をVo、駆動電流をio、画素の静電容量をCoとすると、本発明の画素(n個の有機発光層、n-1の中間導電層を保有)の駆動電圧はnVo、駆動電流はio/n、静電容量はCo/nとなる。ただし、画素の輝度は従来と同一、単位素子(有機発光層を中間導電層および電極で挟んだ単位素子)は従来のXYマトリックスの画素素子と同じとする。

【0012】換言すると、画素の輝度をn倍にしようとすると、従来のXYマトリックス型発光装置では、駆動電流をn倍にする必要があるが、本発明では、駆動電圧がn倍になるものの、駆動電流は同じでよい。つまり、輝度を同一とすると、本願発明では、電圧は従来のn倍になるものの、電流が従来の1/nでよいため、従来問題となっていた走査、信号ラインの抵抗による電圧降下は1/nとなる。よって、次の効果が期待できる。

【0013】従来の発光装置では、走査線電流が大きく、そのため電圧降下が大きく、消費電力の増大をもたらすこと、また、高精細、大面積の発光装置では走査線電流が1A近くとなり、実質的にはドライバーICで駆動できないことが問題となっていた。しかし、本発明では、走査線電流は従来の1/nとなり、消費電力も減少するので、より大面積かつ高精細、たとえば、12インチSVGA(画素数 800×600 、画素ピッチ110 μ m×330 μ m)以上も可能である。

【0014】また、画素表示を行うためには、画素が高速に応答することが必要であるが、従来は配線抵抗Roと駆動時に関係する静電容量C1との積で定まる時定数 $\tauo=Ro\cdot C1$ が大きく、数 μ S~数 10μ Sとなっていた。このため、駆動波形の立ち上がり、立ち下がりが遅れ、動画表示に支障が出ていた。本発明では、Coが1/nとなり、さらに駆動時に関係する静電容量C1も1/nとなる。従って、時定数は $\tauo=Ro\cdot(C1/n)$ となり、高速に応答し、動画表示も高品質で行うことができる。なお、C1はCoと同一ではなく、駆動方式にもよるが、C1=Co×(縦画素数)程度となる。

【0015】以上において、有機EL発光素子を構成する透明電極、中間導電層および対向電極の配列構成については、平面視上各画素に対して重なって積層されている構成でもよく、あるいは、透明電極と一番目の中間導電層にて有機発光層を介在した第一の単位発光素子と、n番目の中間導電層と対向電極にて有機発光層を介在した第nの単位発光素子とが、平面上並置されている構成でもよい。特に、前者の構成の場合には、後者の構成に比べ、画素を高密度化できる。

【0016】また、透明電極と一番目の中間導電層にて有機発光層を介在した第一の単位発光素子と、n番目の中間導電層と対向電極にて有機発光層を介在した第nの単位発光素子とが、少なくとも整流性を保有することが望ましい。ここで、整流性を、好ましくは10°以上、より好ましくは10°以上とすれば、クロストークを防ぐことが可能となる。本発明では、中間導電層を保有する単位発光素子を多段で連結したため、整流性が得やすくなっている。従来の素子は、一個の単位発光素子からなっているため、整流性が不良な素子が生じやすく、クロストークが生じやすいという問題があった。

【0017】ちなみに、本発明の構成に近い技術として、WO95/06400号が知られている。このWO95/06400号は、第一の有機発光素子と第二の有機発光素子とを積層して、第一の発光色と第二の発光色を混色する、または、ハイカラー化するための効果を得るため考えられたものであるが、各有機発光素子にそれぞれ個別に電圧を印加した構成であるため、本発明の中間導電層を保有する構成とは異なる。しかも、本発明の中間導電層を中間に挟んだ有機発光層の構成に基づく効果についても一切示されていない。

[0018]

【発明の実施の形態】 [第1実施形態] 図1は第1実施形態の概略構成を示している。同図に示すように、第1実施形態の発光装置10は、図示省略のガラス基板上に形成された陽極となる透明電極2と、この透明電極2に対向して配置された陰極となる対向電極3と、n枚(1≦n≦100)の中間導電層4と、前記透明電極2と対向電極3との間に中間に前記中間導電層4を挟んで介在され少なくとも有機発光層を含有する複数の有機層5とを含む有機EL発光素子6を画素として備え、この画素40(有機EL発光素子6)が二次元配列、つまり、XおよびY方向に沿って配列されている。つまり、XYマトリックス型発光装置を構成している。

【0019】具体的には、透明電極2は、透光性を有し、互いに平行にかつ一定間隔おきに並設された複数の Y電極ラインYm, Ym+1…から構成されている。対 向電極3は、Y電極ラインYm, Ym+1…に対して直 交して、互いに平行にかつ一定間隔おきに並設された複 数のX電極ラインXe, Xe+1…から構成されてい る。中間導電層4は、透光性を備えるとともに、Y電極 50

ラインYm, Ym+1…とX電極ラインXe, Xe+1 …との交差する箇所で、かつ、これらの間にそれぞれ1 枚配置されている。これを、E (e, m, n), E(e, m+1, n), E(e+1, m, n), E(e+1)1, m+1, n) …とする。なお、nは各画素6中に介 在された中間導電層の数を表し、本実施形態では「1」 である。また、各画素6中の中間導電層E(e, m, n), E(e, m+1, n), E(e+1, m, n), E (e+1, m+1, n)…は、隣接する画素6の中間 導電層E (e, m, n), E (e, m+1, n), E (e+1, m, n), E (e+1, m+1, n) …から 分離されているとともに、電極2,3に接続される電源 からも分離されている。もとより、中間導電層E (e, m, n), E (e, m+1, n), E (e+1, m,n), E (e+1, m+1, n)…を単独でアドレスす · る配線は備えていない。中間導電層4は、一方の主表面 側には正孔を注入でき、他方の主表面側には電子を注入 でき、かつ、層内には略等電位を保つ層と定義できる。 この定義にあてはまるならば、各種透明性の半導体、金 属を用いることができるとともに、半導体/金属の組合 せも用いることができる。有機層5は、Y電極ラインY m, Ym+1…とX電極ラインXe, Xe+1…との交 差する箇所(各画素中)において、Y電極ラインYm, Ym+1…と中間導電層E (e, m, n), E (e, m +1, n), E (e+1, m, n), E (e+1, m+ 1, n) …との間、中間導電層 E (e, m, n), E (e, m+1, n), E(e+1, m, n), E(e+1)1, m+1, n) …とX電極ラインXe, Xe+1…と _ の間にそれぞれ介在されている。

【0020】ここで、各電極2,3および中間導電層4 間に少なくとも有機発光層を含有する有機層 5 が介在し てなる部分を単位素子と定義すると、本実施形態では、 単位素子が平面視上重なるように積層されている。つま り、透明電極2、中間導電層4および対向電極3が、平 面視上各画素に対して重なるように積層されている。さ らに、これらの単位素子は、整流性を有している。整流 比としては、好ましくは10°以上、より好ましくは1 0°以上である。また、単位素子としては、同じ発光色 を示すものが好ましい。さらに、有機層 5 を構成する各 層(たとえば、正孔注入層、正孔輸送層、発光層、電子 注入層)の材料については、同一材料によって構成され ているのが好ましい。これは、製造がしやすくなり、さ らに製膜条件が一定であるため、画素の欠陥が少なくな る効果がある。また、透明電極2上に直接位置する単位 素子にリーク不良が存在したとしても、積層される単位 素子によりリーク不良が解消される効果があるが、その 効果の面でも材料が同一で製膜条件が一定である方が、 より効果を得やすい。

【0021】図2は、上記図1の発光装置10の断面をより具体化して示している。図3はその一部を拡大した

拡大図である。これらの図に示すように、透明電極 2 お よび基板 (図示省略) 上に層間絶縁膜7が形成されてい る。層間絶縁膜7は、絶縁性または半導性の膜であり、 非発光素子部分の一部分となっている。 層間絶縁膜7は その断差部分が急であり、これにより、中間導電層4を 相互に分離している。層間絶縁膜7としては、断差加工 ができる絶縁性膜、無機酸化物膜または無機窒化膜、具 体的にはSiOx $(1 \le x \le 2)$, SiNx $(1/2 \le$ $x \le 4/3$), SiON, SiAlON, SiOF&& である。別の好ましい絶縁性膜は高分子膜である。具体 的には、ポリイミド, ポリアクリレート, ポリキノリ ン、ポリシロキサン、ポリシランなどである。絶縁性膜 の他にも半導体膜であっても画素分離ができる絶縁性が あればよい。好ましい比抵抗は、10¹⁶ Ω・cm~10 $\Omega \cdot c m$ である。たとえば、 $\alpha - S i$, $\alpha - S i C$,

【0022】ところで、上述した発光装置10の製造方法については、各種考えられるが、好ましい具体例としては次のものが挙げられる。

- (1) 透明電極の製膜およびパターン加工
- (2) 段差を与える層間絶縁膜の製膜およびパターン加工
- (3) 有機発光層を含む有機層の製膜((4) を挟んで n+1回繰り返し)
- (4) 中間導電層の製膜
- (5)対向電極の作製((3)の製膜後に作製)
 - (6) 封止工程

従って、たとえば、(3)を2回繰り返す時は(1)→(2)→(3)→(4)→(3)→(5)→(6)となる。

【0023】以上が本製造方法の製造工程であるが、従来の素子の製造方法に比べ、(2)および(4)の工程が異なる。また、(3)の工程を繰り返すところが異なっている。また、本製造方法は、層間絶縁膜の段差を急にするところが必須であり、その角度は好ましくは70度以上である。これにより、好ましくは20nm~0.5nmの膜厚で製膜された中間導電層が段差により断線され、隣接する画素の中間導電層が互いに分離される。また、面発光素子(一画素)についても、中間導電層が対向電極や透明電極より分離されていることを保障する。

【0024】中間導電層としては、層内を略等電位に保つとともに、一方の主表面より正孔を、他方の主表面より電子を注入できるものなら各種用いることができる。 好ましいものを列挙すると、

- ①超薄膜金属/透明電極
- ②電子輸送性化合物と電子注入性化合物の混合層/透明 電極
- ③炭素化合物とアルカリ金属の混合層/透明電極
- ④正孔導電性有機層/電子導電性有機層

5 P型半導体/N型半導体

⑥ P型導電性高分子/N型半導体

などである。さらに、一方の面が正孔注入性であり、かつ、他方の面が電子注入性であれば、薄膜金属、透明電極、電子輸送性化合物と電子注入性化合物の混合層、正孔導電性有機層、PまたはN型半導体など①~⑥の中間導電層として用いられるものの中より組み合わせれば、より好ましく用いることができる。

【0025】上記透明電極で特に好ましいのは、低温で 製膜できるIn-Zn-O酸化物膜である。他に、非晶 質ITO膜も好ましい。好ましい超薄膜金属は、電子注 入性であるMg:Ag合金、Al:Li合金, Mg:L i 合金などである。好ましい電子輸送性化合物は、オキ レンの金属錯体または含N素環化合物である。好ましい 電子注入性化合物は、アルカリ金属、アルカリ土類金 属、希土類金属およびこれらを含有する化合物である。 たとえば、BaO, SrO, Li2O, LiCl, Li F, MgF₂, MgO, CaF₂などが好ましい電子注入 性化合物である。好ましいP型半導体は、P型 α -S 20 i, P型Si, P型CdTe, P型CuOなどである。 好ましいN型半導体は、N型α-Si, N型Si, N型 CdS, N型ZnSなどである。P型またはN型の導電 性高分子として、好ましいものは、ポリアリーレンビニ レン、ポリチェニレンビニレンなどである。

【0026】 [第2実施形態] 図4は第2実施形態の概 略構成を示している。同図に示すように、第2実施形態 の発光装置20は、3つの単位素子(1)(2)(3) が平面視上、並置されている構成である。Y電極ライン Ymより延長され接続されている電極Y'は、その上部 の中間導電層E(e, m, 1)との間に有機発光層を有 する有機層5を介在し、単位素子(1)を構成してい る。中間導電層 E (e, m, 1) は、並置された単位素 子(2)の下部にある中間導電層E(e, m, 1)と接 続されている。中間導電層E(e, m, 1)は、その上 部にある中間導電層E(e, m, 2)との間に有機発光 層を有する有機層5を介在し、単位素子(2)を構成し ている。中間導電層E(e, m, 2)は、並置される単 位素子(3)の下部にある中間導電層E(e, m, 2) と接続されている。中間導電層E(e, m, 2)は、そ の上部のX電極ラインXeとの間に有機発光層を有する 有機層5を介在し、単位素子(3)を構成している。な お、これらの単位素子(1)(2)(3)については整 流性を備える。

【0027】従って、この第2実施形態の構成においても、X電極ラインYmより延長された電極Y'とX電極ラインXeとの間に、2枚の中間導電層E(e, m, 1)、E(e, m, 2)が介在され、これらの間に有機発光層を有する有機層5が介在されているから、つまり、電極Y'とX電極ラインXeとの間に、3つの有機5が中間に中間導電層E(e, m, 1)、E(e,

m, 2) を挟んで直列に接続されているから、第1実施 形態と同等な効果が期待できる。

[0028]

【0029】次に、このV259層上にフォトレジストを製膜し、図5 (A) のような開口パターンが残るようにフォトマスクを通し露光、現像した。さらに、この基板を80℃の温度で1時間、乾燥した後、図5 (A) の形状のフォトレジストをマスクとして酸素ガスを用いた反応性イオンエッチングを行い、開口部の層間絶縁膜を除去した。得られたものは図5 (B) の断面をもつ基板 20である。なお、上面形状については図5 (C) 参照。

【0030】次に、この基板をイソプロピルアルコール中にて超音波洗浄を5分行い、さらに紫外線とオゾンを併用した洗浄を30分行った。この透明支持基板を真空蒸着装置に固定し、3つの抵抗加熱ボートには、MTDATA(4,4',4''ートリス ${N-(3-メチルフェニル)-N-フェニルアミノ}$ トリフェニルアミン)とNPD(N,N'ージー(1ーナフチル)-N,N'ージフェニルー4,4'ーベンジジン)とAlq(8ーヒドロキシキノリンのAl錯体)をそれぞれ入れた。また、金属Liの蒸着源を用意した。真空蒸着装置を 1×10^{-4} まで排気した。

【0031】次に、MTDATA入りのボートを加熱し、膜厚120nmの正孔注入層を製膜した。次に、NPD入りのボートを加熱し、膜厚10nmの正孔輸送層を製膜した。次に、Alq入りボートを加熱し、膜厚40nmの発光層を製膜し、さらに、金属LiとAlqを1:1のモル比で同時蒸着した。このAlq:Li層は電子注入層として働くが、中間導電層の一部として考えてもよく、発光層への電子注入を行う。

【0032】以上の製膜を行った基板(図5 (D) に示す基板)を真空蒸着用の槽よりこの真空槽に連結されているスパッタリング用の真空槽に移動した。そして、中間導電層の一部としてIn-Zn-Oを11nm製膜した。In/(In/Zn) で表される原子比0.83の $In-Zn-Oスパッタリングターゲットを用い、スパッタリング出力1.2W/<math>cm^2$ 、 $Ar:O_2$ の体積比1000:1の混合ガスを雰囲気として製膜した。

【0033】次に、以上の製膜を終えた基板を真空蒸着用の槽に戻し、MTDATA入りボートを加熱し、膜厚 50

120 n mの正孔注入層を製膜した。次に、NPD入りのボートを加熱し、膜厚10 n mの正孔輸送層を製膜した。次に、Alq入りボートを加熱し、膜厚40 n mの発光層を製膜し、さらに、金属LiとAlqを1:1のモル比で同時蒸着した。最後に、Inを陰極用蒸着マスク(開口ストライプパターンは、ITOストライプに垂直となるように400 μ mピッチ、開口幅300 μ mで20本設けられている。)をかけて1.8 μ mの膜厚で製膜し、陰極とした。作製された発光素子群(発光装置)の断面は図5(E)で示されたものである。

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【0035】 [比較例1] 比較例1は中間導電層がない場合である。実施例1と同様に素子群を作製した。ただし、In-Zn-O中間導電層および2回目の正孔注入層、正孔輸送層、発光層の蒸着を省略し、従来の構成の素子群を作製した。発光素子群の陰極であるInストライプ全てを0電位に、陽極であるITOストライプ全てに7.35 Vを印加したところ、電流密度3mA/cm²、輝度100nitを得た。発光効率は3.37cd/Aであった。以上のことから、実施例1の素子は、電圧が比較例1に対して約2倍となるが、発光効率が約2倍となり、高輝度化が可能なことが判る。

【0036】 [実施例2] 実施例2は中間導電層が2枚 の場合である。実施例1と同様にして2回目のLi:Alq層まで蒸着した。以上の製膜を行った基板を真空蒸着用の槽よりこの真空槽に連結されているスパッタリング用の真空槽に再び移動した。そして、中間導電層の一部としてIn-Zn-Oを10nm製膜した。In/(In+Zn)で表される電子比0.83の<math>In-Zn-Oxパッタリングターゲットを用いスパッタリング出力1.2W/cm²、Ar:O₂の体積比1000:1の混合ガスを雰囲気として製膜した。

【0037】次に、以上の製膜を終えた基板を真空蒸着用の槽に戻し、MTDATA入りボートを加熱し、膜厚 120 n mの正孔注入層を製膜した。次に、NPD入りボートを加熱し、膜厚 10 n mの正孔輸送層を製膜した。次に、Alq入りボートを加熱し、膜厚 10 n mの 発光層を製膜し、さらに、金属LiとAlqを1:1 の モル比で同時蒸着した。最後に、Inを陰極用蒸着マスク(開口ストライプパターンは、ITOストライプに垂直となるように 10 m 10

【0038】以上で作製を終えたが、この発光素子群の 陰極であるInストライプ全てを0電位に、陽極である ITOストライプ全てに23Vを印加し、2枚の中間導電層には何も結合しなかったところ、電流密度3mA/cm²、輝度303nitを得た。発光効率は10.1 cd/Aであった。以上のように、この実施例2では、比較例1の素子に比べて、電圧は約3倍であるが、輝度が3倍、発光効率も約3倍の高輝度化素子が作製できた。なお、以上の実施例では、全面発光の試験例を示したが、陽極を信号線、陰極を走査線として単純マトリックスによる線順次駆動できることも確認している。従来の発光装置に比較して、走査線電流を同じにしたとき、実施例1、実施例2の発光装置で得られる輝度はそれぞれ2.02、2.95倍であり、高輝度化することができた。

【0039】 [実施例3] 実施例3は中間導電層がMg:Agの超薄膜/In-Zn-O導線性酸化物膜の例である。実施例1と同様にして素子を作製した。ただし、Alq:Li/In-Zn-O導線性酸化物膜の構成の中間導電膜層のかわりに、Mg:Agの超薄膜/In-Zn-O導線性酸化物膜を用いたところが異なった。Mg:Agは、膜厚8nmであり、同時蒸着により形成した。この中間導電層は透過率が約60%であった。この発光素子群の陰極ストライプ全てを0電位に、陽極であるITOストライプ全てに15Vを印加し、中間導電層には何も結合しなかったところ、電流密度3mA/cm²、輝度156nitを得た。発光効率は5.2cd/Aであった。

【0040】以上のように、透過率が金属超薄膜を利用した場合には、比較例1の素子に比べ約2倍までいかないが、高輝度化した。電子注入層と電子注入性化合物の混合層は透明性が高いので、実施例1の素子の方が優れていた。このように、透過率が60%より大きい透明かつ正孔も電子も注入できる中間導電層を用いる方が好ましいことが判明した。

【0041】 [実施例4] 実施例4は中間導電層を保有する面発光光源の例である。 $25\,\mathrm{mm}\times75\,\mathrm{mm}\times1$. $1\,\mathrm{mm}$ のサイズのガラス基板上にITO (インジウムチンオキサイド) 電極を $120\,\mathrm{nm}$ 製膜してあるものを透明支持基板とした。このITOを $25\,\mathrm{mm}\times30\,\mathrm{mm}$ の形状にパターン加工した。次に、層間絶縁膜として透明アクリレート樹脂製(新日本製鉄化学社製)である $V259\,\mathrm{mm}$ をスピンコートにて1. $2\,\mathrm{mm}$ の膜厚で製膜した。この後、この基板を $200\,\mathrm{mm}$ の温度で加熱し、 $V259\,\mathrm{mm}$ からなる層間絶縁膜を熱硬化した。

【0042】次に、このV259層上にフォトレジストを製膜し、20mm×25mmの開口パターンが残るようにフォトマスクを通し露光、現像した。さらに、この基板を80℃の温度で1時間、乾燥した後、フォトレジストをマスクとして酸素ガスを用いた反応性イオンエッチングを行い、開口部の層間絶縁膜を除去した。次に、この基板をイソプロピルアルコール中にて超音波洗浄を50

5分行い、さらに、紫外線とオゾンを併用した洗浄を30分行った。

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【0043】この透明支持基板上に共役系ポリマーであるポリ (2-メトキシー5-(2-エチルヘキシルオキシ)-1, 4-フェニレンビニレン)、(MEH-PPV)を文献(Synthetic Metal誌 第66巻、75頁、1994年)に従い合成した。MEH-PPVの1.5重量%のキシレン溶液より発光層を120nm製膜した。これを真空中で80℃で乾燥し、さらに、この層の上にAlq(8-ヒドロキシキノリンのAl錯体)と金属Liの1:1の層を電子注入層として20nm、真空蒸着した。このAlq:Li層は電子注入層として働くが、中間導電層の一部として考えてもよく、発光層への電子注入を行う。

【0044】以上の製膜を行った基板を真空蒸着用の槽よりこの真空槽に連結されているスパッタリング用の真空槽に移動した。そして、中間導電層の一部としてIn -Zn-Oを11nm製膜した。<math>In/(In+Zn) で表される原子比 $0.830In-Zn-Oスパッタリングターゲットを用いスパッタリング出力<math>1.2W/cm^2$ 、Ar:O2の体積比1000:1の混合ガスを雰囲気をして製膜した。

【0045】次に、以上の製膜を終えた基板上にさらに MEH-PPVの1.5 重量%のキシレン溶液より発光 層を120 n m製膜した。これを真空中80℃で乾燥し、さらに、この層の上にAlq(8-ヒドロキシキノリンのAl錯体)と金属Liの1:1の層を電子注入層として20 n m、真空蒸着した。金属LiとAlqを1:1のモル比で同時蒸着した。最後に、Inを陰極用蒸着マスクをかけて1.7 μ mの膜厚で製膜し、陰極とした。以上で作製を終えたが、この面発光素子の陰極を0電位に、陽極であるITOに11 Vを印加し、中間導電層には何も結合しなかったところ、電流密度30 m A/c m²、輝度1400 n i t を得た。発光効率は4.7 c d/Aであった。

【0046】 [比較例2] 比較例2は従来の面状発光素子の場合である。実施例4と同様に素子群を作製した。ただし、In-Zn-O中間導電層および2回目の発光層、電子注入層を省略し、従来の構成の素子を作製した。発光素子群の陰極を0電位に、陽極であるITOに5.2 Vを印加したところ、電流密度30mA/cm²、輝度750nitを得た。発光効率は2.5 cd/Aであった。以上のことから、実施例4の素子は、比較例2に比べ、電圧が約2倍となるが、発光効率が略2倍近くとなり、低電圧で高輝度化が可能なことが判る。【0047】 [従来発光素子の寿命と本発明素子の寿命との比較] 初期200nitで定電流駆動で寿命試験を行った。比較例2の素子の寿命は500時間であった。実施例4の本発明の素子を同じ輝度で寿命試験を行ったところ、寿命は1300時間に伸びた。初期輝度400

n i tで定電流駆動で寿命試験を行ったところ、比較例 2に対して実施例4の素子の輝度が2倍のとき、寿命は 470時間で同等であった。従って、本発明は、高輝度 で同等の寿命を得ることができ、同等の輝度では著しく 長寿命となることが判る。

【0048】なお、本発明は、前記実施形態に限定されるものでなく、本発明の目的を達成できる他の構成を含む。たとえば、第1および第2実施形態では、画素(有機EL発光素子6)を二次元配列したが、XまたはY方向に沿って一列に配列、つまり、一次元配列でもよい。 10また、第1実施形態では各画素中に1つの中間導電層4を、また、第2実施形態では2つの中間導電層4を介在させたが、中間導電層4の数nは、1つ以上かつ100以下の範囲内であれば任意である。つまり、 $1 \le n \le 1$ 00の範囲内であれば任意である。

【0049】また、有機層5の層構成については、特に問わないが、陰極と発光層との間に電子注入層を設けたり、陽極と発光層との間に正孔注入層を設けたり、あるいは、これらの電子注入層および正孔注入層を両方に設けた構造でもよく、少なくとも、有機発光層を含む構成 20であればどのような層構成でもよい。

[0050]

【発明の効果】本発明の有機EL発光素子によれば、透明電極と対向電極との間に、中間に中間導電層を挟んで複数の有機発光層を介在させた構成であるから、従来の素子に比べ、走査線電流を抑制できるとともに、応答性を向上させることができる。従って、この有機EL発光*

*素子を用いた発光装置によれば、大型かつ高精細ディスプレイを安価に実現できる。

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【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】本発明の発光装置の第1実施形態の原理を示す 斜視図である。

【図2】同上実施形態の断面を示す断面図である。

【図3】図2の部分拡大図である。

【図4】本発明の発光装置の第2実施形態の原理を示す 斜視図である。

) 【図5】本発明の第1実施形態の製造方法を説明するための図である。

【図6】従来のXYマトリックス型発光装置を示す平面 図およびその一部拡大斜視図である。

【符号の説明】

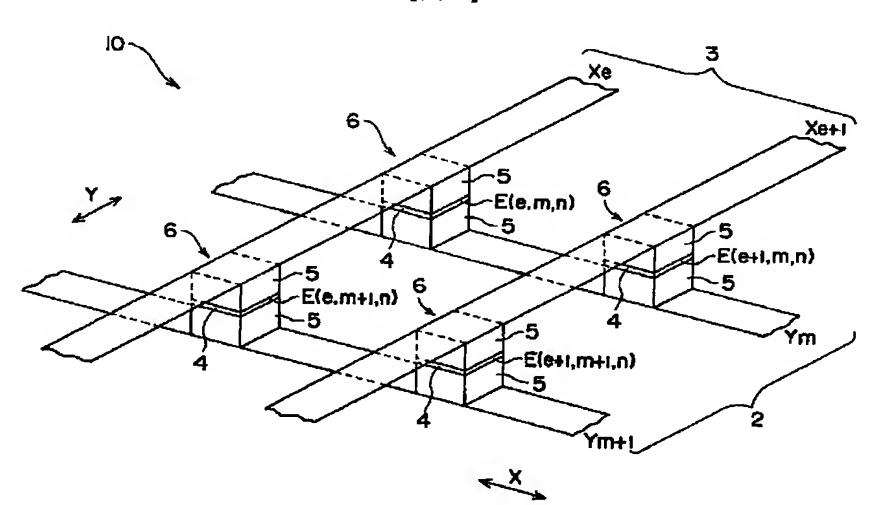
- 2 透明電極
- 3 対向電極
- 4 中間導電層
- 5 有機層
- 6 有機発光素子
- 7 層間絶縁膜
- 10 発光装置
- 20 発光装置

Ym, Ym+1…Y電極ライン

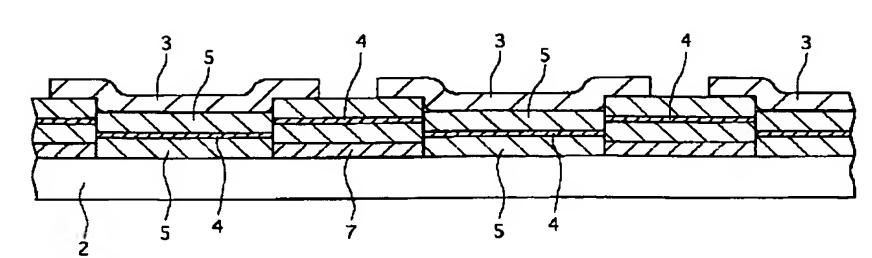
X e, X e + 1 … X 電極ライン

E (e, m, n) …E (e+1, m+1, n) …中間導電層

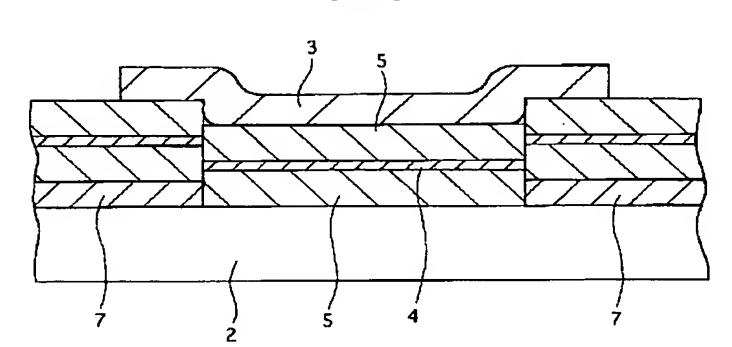
【図1】



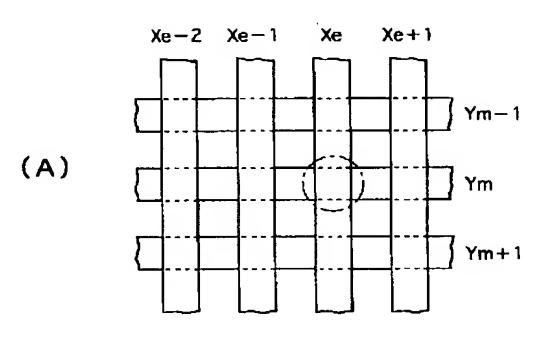
【図2】

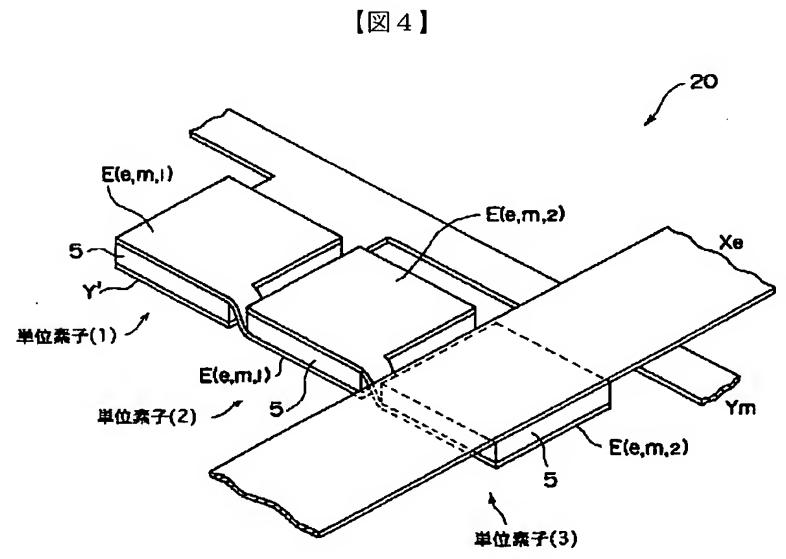


【図3】



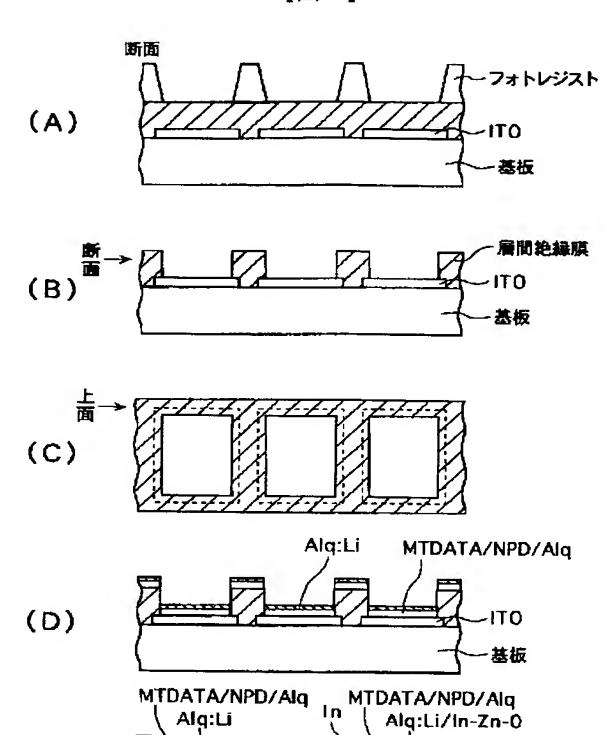
【図6】





Xe (B)

【図5】



-ITO

-基板

(E)